

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (original) An illumination apparatus for an operating section, comprising an operation part provided on a panel of an electronic equipment and an operation knob attached to the operation part so that light from a built-in light emission source illuminates a rear surface of the operation knob, wherein

the apparatus further comprises:

a light emission source located above a bearing section of an operation knob; and

a light guiding piece located between the operation knob and the panel to diffusively transmit light from the light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob.

Claim 2 (original) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of a shaft section of the operation part and a bearing section of the operation knob fitted around the shaft section is a transparent material.

Claim 3 (original) An illumination apparatus for an operating section, comprising an operation part provided on a panel of an electronic equipment and an operation knob attached to the operation part so that light from a built-in light emission source illuminates a rear surface of the operation knob, wherein

each of a shaft section of the operation part and a bearing section of the operation knob is a transparent material, and

the apparatus further comprises a light emission source provided inside at least one of the shaft section of the operation part and the bearing section of the operation knob, and a light guiding piece is located between the operation knob and the panel to diffusively transmit light from the light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1-~~or~~3, wherein at least one of an internal wall surface of the operation knob and a panel surface at the rear surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1-~~or~~3, wherein a light receiving surface of the light guiding piece for receiving the light from the light emission surface faces an interior of the operation knob, and an emission surface for emitting the light diffusively passing through the light guiding piece to front of the light guiding piece is located around the outer peripheral section of the operation knob.

Claim 6 (original) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 5, wherein a part or the whole of the rear surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface and an outer peripheral section of a front surface of the light guiding piece is a matted emission surface.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1-~~or~~3, wherein a concave is formed in the panel surface to which the operation part is attached, and the light guiding piece is placed in the concave.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1-~~or~~3, wherein a through-hole is formed in the operation knob so that the transmitted or diffused light is emitted through the through-hole.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1-~~or~~3, wherein the operation knob is an operation button.